Introduction to Google Analytics for the Common Digital Experience

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About Jon Parks



- Sr. Consultant with Atlantic BT
- Digital marketer with 17+ years of experience
- Instructor in Google Analytics, SEO, PPC and Social Media
- NC Native!

Session Structure

In today's session, we will:

- Introduce Google Analytics and what it can be used to do
- Explore the user interface
- Dig into the 5 report folders and examine how we can use these reports
- Examine a few "advanced" topics to help you get more from Google Analytics

Introduction to Google Analytics

Why Use Google Analytics?

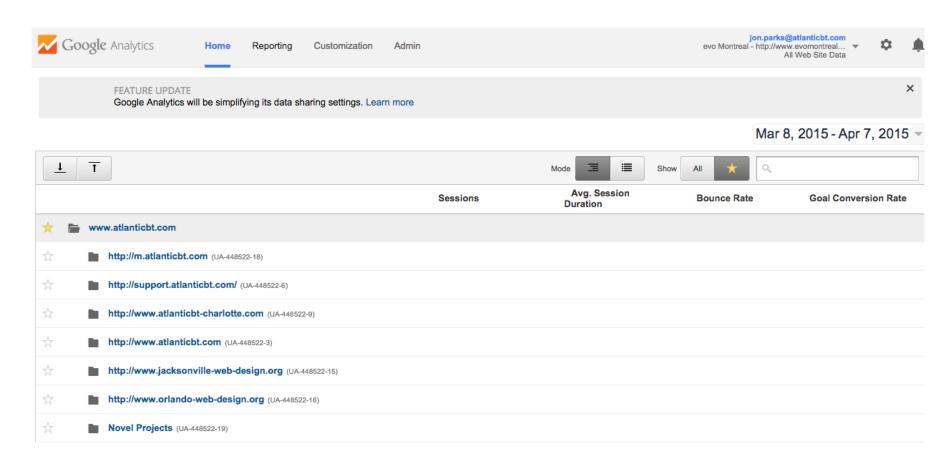
- Provides solid analytical data on how your visitors use your site
- Perfect for:
 - Standalone Web site
 - Multiple Web sites (mTLDs, mSDs)
 - Mobile apps
- Integrates well with:
 - Google AdWords
 - Google Webmaster Tools
 - Social Media

Overview of Google Analytics

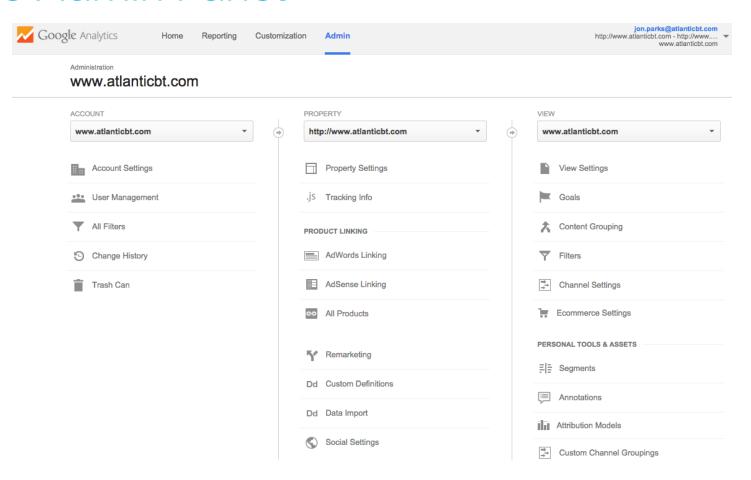
Let's take a look inside GA at a few key areas:

- Account panel
- Admin panel
- Main dashboard
- Report Folders

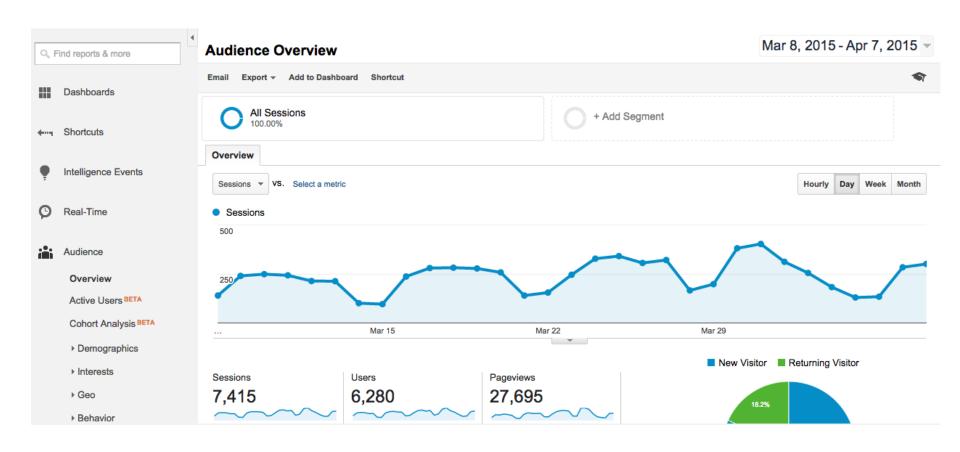
The Account Panel



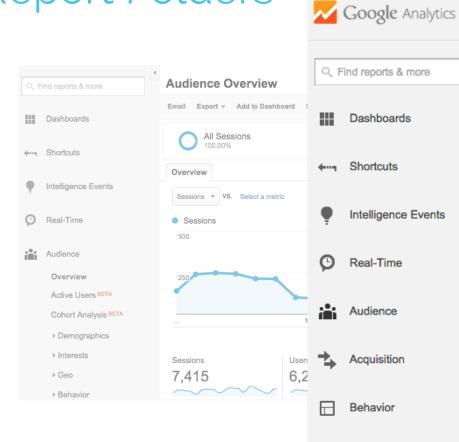
The Admin Panel



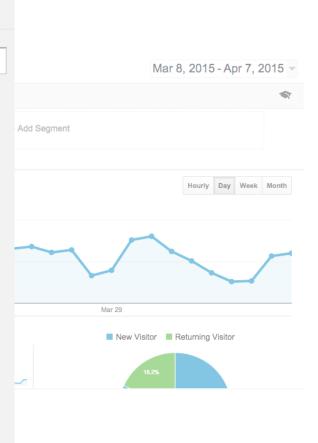
Main Dashboard



Report Folders



Conversions



Google Analytics Structure

Structure of Google Analytics

- Accounts = top level of organization in GA
- 2. Property = an individual Website, blog, etc.
- 3. View = a unique view of data within a property
- 4. Users = individuals that can access GA accounts



Google Analytics Orientation

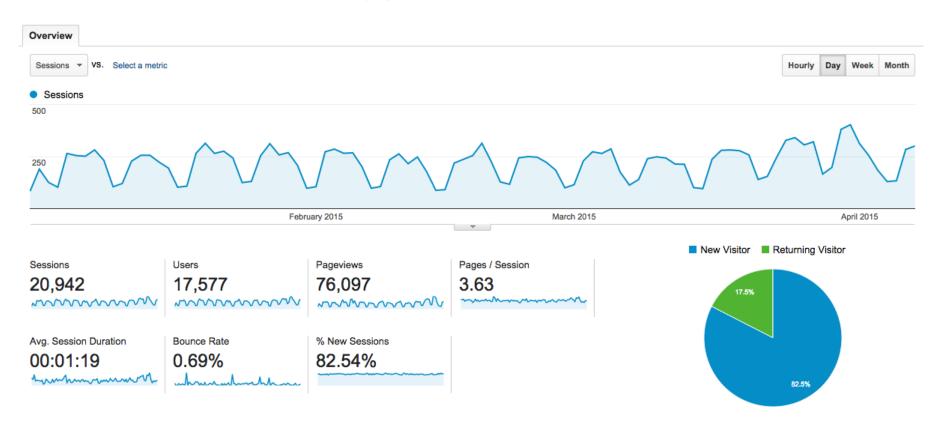
Google Analytics Orientation

- 1. Core Terminology
- 2. User Management
- 3. Overview of Reporting Dashboards
- 4. Reporting Date Ranges
- 5. Annotations
- 6. Sharing/Emailing Reports

Core Terminology

- Sessions
- Users
- New vs. Returning Visitors
- Pageviews
- Bounce rate
- Dimensions and Metrics
- Data sampling

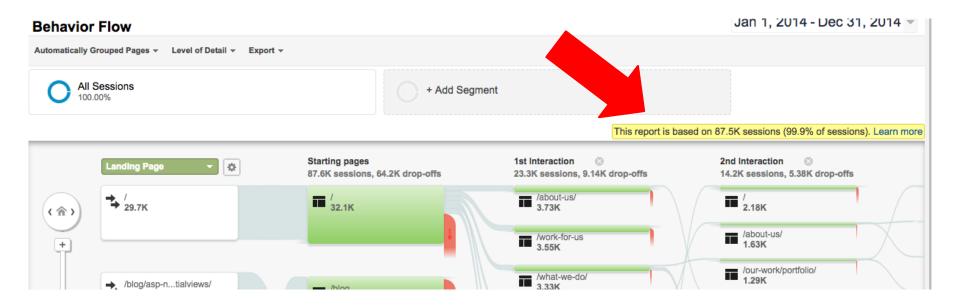
Core Terminology: Examples



Core Terminology: Dimensions & Metrics

- Every report has dimensions & metrics
- Dimensions: describes the characteristics of your users, their sessions & actions
 - o i.e. City, browser, mobile device, referral source
- Metrics: the quantitative measurements (think: "the numbers")
 - o i.e. 4,000 sessions, \$3.19 CPC, 35% bounce rate

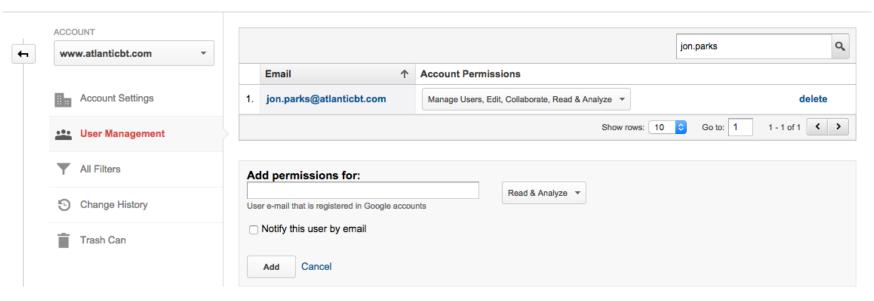
Core Terminology: Data Sampling



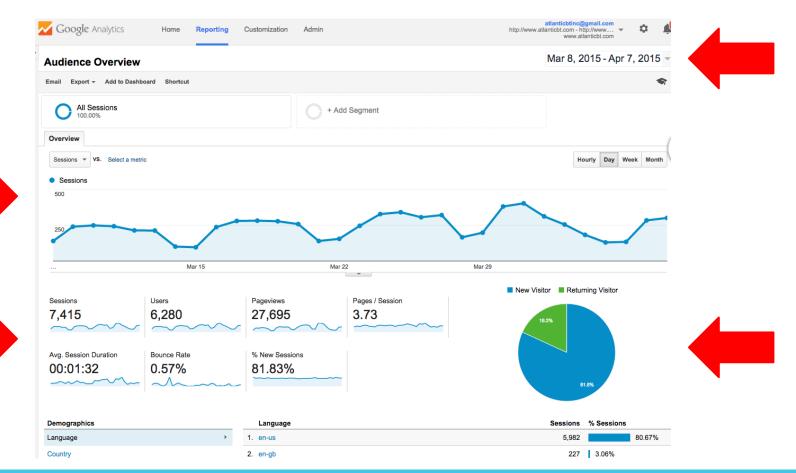
User Management

Administration > User Management

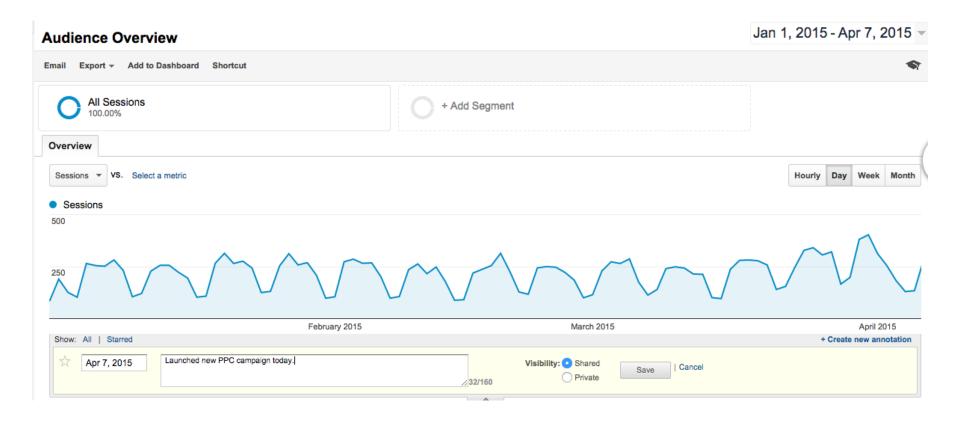
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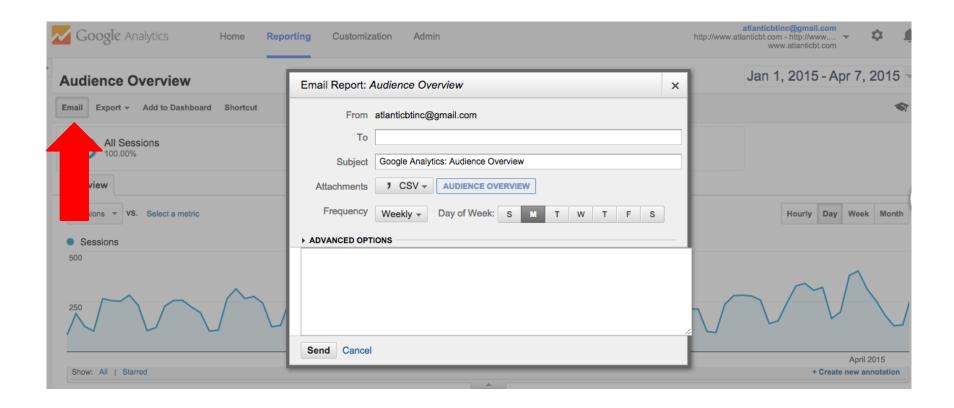
Report Dashboards



Annotations



Sharing/Emailing Reports



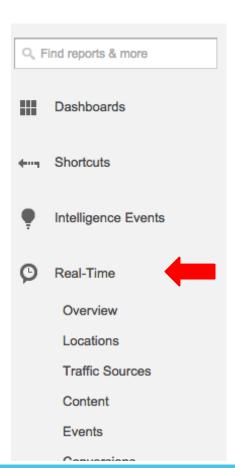
Reporting in Google Analytics

Google Analytics: Reports

There are 5 main report folders in Google Analytics

- 1. Real-Time
- 2. Audience
- 3. Acquisition
- 4. Behavior
- 5. Conversions

Real-Time



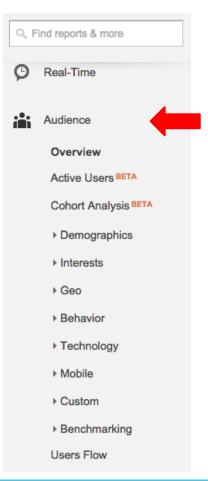
- Answers the question "what's happening on my site right now?"
- Limited analysis (but useful)
 - Page view
 - Sources
 - Conversions
 - Events
- Small window of time

Real-Time: How to Use this Report

Use this report data to:

- See immediate impact from in-progress campaigns
- Make adjustments to social media messaging
- Monitor geographic location of visitors

Audience



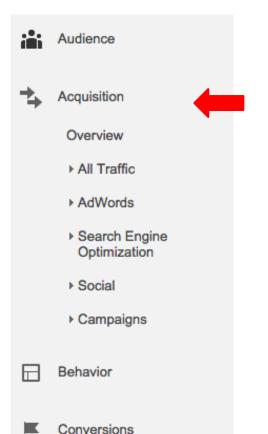
- Answers the question "who is visiting your site?"
 - Where are they located?
 - What do we know about them?
 - Our How they access the site?

Audience: How to Use this Report

Use this report data to:

- Make decisions about geographies and users to target
- Understand dominant devices, browsers, OS versions for your site's users
- Use demographic data to confirm your personas and make necessary adjustments

Acquisition



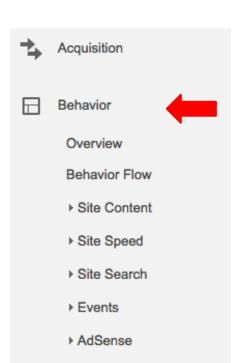
- Answers the question "how did visitors get to my site?"
 - Evaluate your SEO efforts
 - Monitor AdWords campaigns
 - Compare performance of social media efforts
 - Track email marketing campaigns

Acquisition: How to Use this Report

Use this report data to:

- Make informed decisions on marketing efforts
 - i.e. "Should we put more effort into Facebook or Twitter?"
- Measure success with acquiring traffic via organic search
- Determine which channels bring you the right traffic

Behavior



Experiments

Conversions

In-Page Analytics

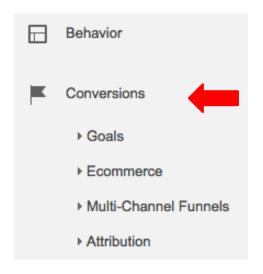
- Answers the question "what do visitors do on my site?"
 - What pages do they view?
 - How do they navigate through my site?
 - What actions do they complete?
 - How quickly do pages load for my visitors?

Behavior: How to Use this Report

Use this report data to:

- Determine popular topics/content with your audience
 - Tells you what you need to create more of as part of your content marketing strategy
- Make decisions about navigation & flow
- Decide which pages you should focus on for conversion efforts
 - Landing and exit pages

Conversions



- Answers the question: "did visitors do what we wanted them to do when they visited the site?"
 - Did they sign-up/register?
 - Did users download the resource/document/guide?
 - Where are visitors getting stuck/leaving the conversion process?

Conversions: How to Use this Report

Use this report data to:

- Find out if visitors complete specific actions for your marketing campaigns
- Determine which campaigns are working and which ones are not
- Find out when (time of day/day of week)
 visitors are more likely to convert

Advanced Topics

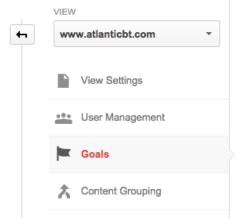
Advanced Topics

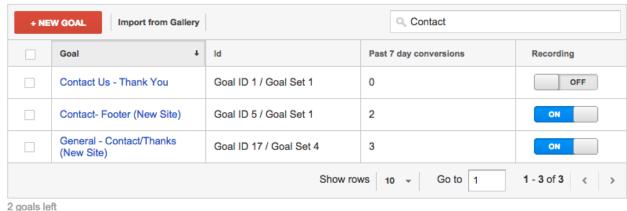
- Creating Goals
- Setting up filters
- Custom Dashboards
- Intelligence Events

Advanced Topics: Goals

- Goals are the building block of conversions
- First, determine what goals are important for you to measure:
 - What do you want visitors to do? Where will they complete that action?
 - e.g. Thank You page after form submission
- Second, create your goals in GA's admin panel
- Bonus: goals feed into funnels

Advanced Topics: Creating Goals





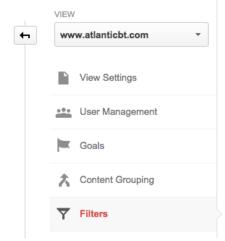
Advanced Topic: Filters

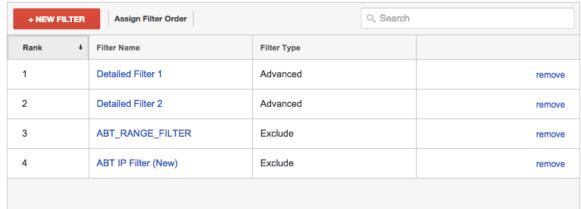
- Filters help you control how you view your data
 - Filter out bot traffic, internal traffic
 - Isolate certain types of traffic (i.e. social traffic)
- Determine what you want to filter
- Key: maintain a "master" view
 - Clean, pure, unflitered data
 - Important b/c once a filter is applied, data in that view is filtered forever

Advanced Topics: Filters

Administration > View Filters

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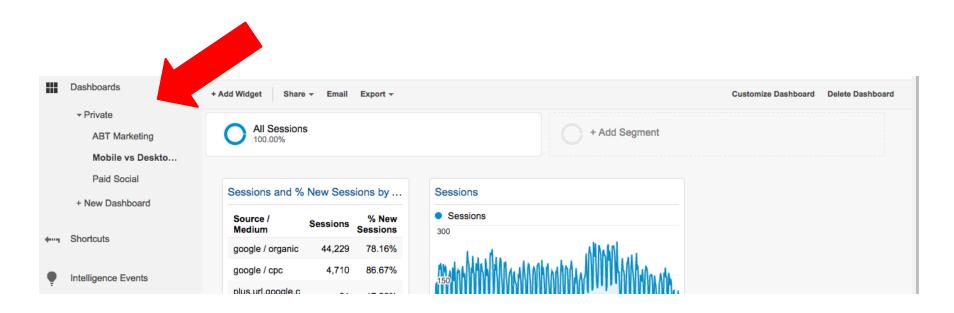




Advanced Topics: Custom Dashboards

- Allows you to focus on the dimensions & metrics that matter most to you
 - You're creating your own custom report
- Dashboards can be private or shared with all users
- Can be built dynamically from specific elements in the full suite of reports
- Not sure where to start? GA provides "starter" dashboards to guide you

Advanced Topics: Custom Dashboards



Advanced Topics: Intelligence Events



Review

Review

Today, we've explored the following areas in Google Analytics:

- Introduction to the GA interface
- Overview of GA structure and core terminology
- In-depth look into the 5 report folders and how those reports can be used
- A look into advanced topics that can take you further inside Google Analytics

Questions?

Introduction to Google Analytics for the NC.gov Team

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